

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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R 231506Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4447
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMCONSUL MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 2499

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: PINT, CSCE, SHUM, UR, US
SUBJECT: DISSIDENT ROUNDUP: PENTECOSTAL CONGREGATION; TURCHIN'S
VIEWS; OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

REF: (A) MOSCOW 2443, (B) MOSCOW 0288

1. EMBASSY HAS LEARNED SOME ADDITIONAL DETAILS ABOUT DESIRE
OF A PENTECOSTAL CHURCH CONGREGATION TO EMIGRATE (REF A):

--TOTAL SIZE OF GROUP WISHING TO EMIGRATE
NUMBERS ABOUT 520 PERSONS;

-- DELEGATION REPRESENTING GROUP DELIVERED
APPEAL TO ALLOW EMIGRATION TO THE PRESIDUM OF USSR
SUPREME SOVIET AND NOT TO OVIR AS REPORTED REF A. PETITION
WAS ACCEPTED BY OFFICIALS WHO MET DELEGATION;

-- GROUP HAS NO VYZOVS IN HAND AND IS WILLING
TO GO TO ANY WESTERN COUNTRY WILLING TO ACCEPT IT;

-- DELEGATION HELD PRESS CONFERENCE ON FEB 22
IN APARTMENT OF DISSIDENT YURIY MNYUKH.

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2. MNYUKH IS A DISCHARGED PHYSICIST, A CLOSE FRIEND
OF LYUDA ALEKSEYEVA, AND HERETOFORE ONE OF THE LESS
PROMINENT MEMBERS OF THE CSCE MONITORING GROUP HEADED
BY ORLOV. MNYUKH'S ASSUMPTION OF A MORE ACTIVE ROLE NOW
MAY INDICATE A CLOSING OF RANKS AMONG DISSIDENTS AFTER
RECENT ARRESTS AND EMIGRATIONS, AND THE MOVEMENT OF
NEW PERSONALITIES TO THE FOREFRONT.

3. VALENTIN TURCHIN RECENTLY COMMENTED TO US THAT LATEST EXPRESSION OF STRONG OPEN SUPPORT GIVEN BY THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENT IN THE USSR, WHICH THRILLED TURCHIN AND HIS COLLEAGUES, PROBABLY SHOULD NOW BE FOLLOWED BY PERIOD OF "QUIET DIPLOMACY," WITH U.S. INDICATING TO SOVIET AUTHORITIES THAT IT DOES NOT WISH CONFRONTATION WITH USSR ON THIS ISSUE IF LATTER QUIETLY EASES UP PRESSURE ON HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENT AND RELEASES ITS LEADERS. TURCHIN, WHOSE PERSPECTIVE IS BROADER THAN MOST SOVIET DISSIDENTS, SAID HE RECOGNIZED THERE WAS "A LINE BEYOND WHICH THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP CANNOT BE PUSHED" ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE.

4. ASKED ABOUT HIS PERSONAL EXPECTATIONS AS ONE OF THE LAST PROMINENT HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVITST STILL "AT LARGE" IN THE USSR, TURCHIN REPLIED HE IS UNDER NO ILLUSIONS: UNLESS SOVIETS EASE UP THE PRESSURE, HE CAN EXPECT ARREST, EXPULSION, OR EMIGRATION RELATIVELY SOON. HE STILL REGARDS HIMSELF AS A SCIENTIST AND WOULD LIKE EVENTUALLY TO PICK UP HIS CAREER ABROAD, PROBABLY IN THE U.S. (WE UNDERSTAND TURCHIN HAS CONTACTS IN THE U.S. SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY; TURCHIN HAS A GOOD WORKING KNOWLEDGE OF SPOKEN AND WRITTEN ENGLISH; PRESUMABLY HE WOULD EMIGRATE WITH HIS WIFE AND TWO TEENAGE SONS.)

5. ACCORDING TO IOSIF KIBLITSKIY, DISSIDENT ARTISTS ARE CONSIDERING POSSIBILITY OF ORGANIZING A "HELSINKI SUB-GROUP" TO MONITOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN FIELD OF CREATIVE CONFIDENTIAL

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ARTS. MEMBERSHIP ON COMMITTEE MAY INCLUDE OSKAR RABIN, KIBLITSKIY HIMSELF, WRITER VLADIMIR VOYNOVICH AND OTHERS. PROJECT IS IN DISCUSSION STAGE, AND NO ACTION HAS AS YET BEEN TAKEN.

6. THE DISSIDENT GROUP ON SOVIET PSYCHIATRIC PRACTICES (REF B) HAS BEGUN ITS WORK. THE NEW GROUP CONSIDERS ITSELF A "WORKING COMMISSION" OF THE CSCE MONITORING GROUP AND CONSISTS OF FIVE MEMBERS: VYACHESLAV BAKHMIN, IRINA KAPLUN, ALEKSANDR PODRABINEK, FELIKS SEREBROV AND DZHEMMA BABICH. THE COMMISSION HAS BEGUN ITS SUBSTANTIVE ACTIVITIES WITH AN INVESTIGATION OF THE CASE OF LENINGRAD DISSIDENT VLADIMIR BORISOV, WHO WAS COMMITTED TO A MENTAL INSTITUTION LAST DECEMBER.
TOON

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Message Attributes

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